

THE COMING OF URBAN THE FIFTH

spite of the opposition of the King of France, Urban left Avignon on April 30, 1367, and, on June 4, he landed at Corneto, where a great throng of nobles and envoys from almost every State of Italy was waiting to receive him, headed by Albornoz himself and Birgitta's friend, the Count of Nola. In the midst of all this glittering show were Giovanni Colombini and Francesco Vincenti, with some sixty of their *poverelli*, clad in the most amazing rags. They had accompanied Albornoz from Viterbo, had invaded the Franciscan convent in which Urban was to stay, insisting upon making his bed, and those of the cardinals, and now, crowned with olive and carrying branches in their hands, they rushed madly to and fro, cheering frantically for Christ and the Pope. "It was the most lovely and devout thing that was ever seen," wrote Giovanni to the Abbess of Santa Bonda. They were accused of heresy, like that of the Fraticelli, the *frati della povera vita*, of whom there were many in Tuscany ; but the Pope's brother, the "Cardinal of Avignon," Anglico de Grimoard, "who is like a lamb," and the papal secretary, Petrarca's friend Francesco Bruni, took them under their protection, and promised to befriend them with the Sovereign Pontiff.

At Corneto the Pope stayed for Whitsuntide, and received an embassy from the Romans, who conferred the full dominion of the City upon him, and gave him the keys of Sant' Angelo. Then he moved on to Toscanella, the *poverelli* running round him all the way. Urban bore it all with exemplary patience, but, when he got to his lodging, he sent for Francesco and told him he did not like their rags, but would clothe them in grey habits and white hoods at his own expense—whereat the "poor little men" sang psalms of praise.

The Pope entered Viterbo in state on June 9, 1367, "with such grace and exultation that it seemed the very stones would cry : Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Here he took up his abode in the great fortress that Albornoz had built, and received the lords of the Italian cities that acknowledged his sway and the ambassadors of the Republics. To the